



Lower Elementary Aerospace Education Fact Sheet

The Lower Elementary Aerospace Education Program (LEAP) is an education program at the John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) in South Mississippi, specifically designed to enhance the awareness of space science in children in grades two through four. This program seeks to motivate student interest in science and mathematics through the excitement of space adventure. Information is presented in ways appropriate to this age level.

Upon arrival, the children are brought into the excitement of space with a video depicting NASA's space program, from its inception to its future. The students are then introduced to "Living and Working in Space," an interactive program designed for their age level. Throughout the program, students are involved in activities that take them on a mock adventure into space. The students lift off to become astronauts aboard Mission STS-1997 to launch a special satellite. After a successful mission and landing, the students design and create their own NASA mission patches for an international space station.

Throughout LEAP, Visitors Center personnel interact with the students using questions and demonstrations to keep their attention. During their adventure, students get a close look at NASA's past, present and proposed future fleet of launch vehicles. They are also able to look at a NASA spacesuit and handle rocket and shuttle models. The museum session reviews the Apollo era, when man first walked on the moon, and continues through the Space Shuttle era. Students are also informed about technology and programs using space research. This session ends with hands-on activities in Space Believe, an interactive science learning center in the SSC Visitors Center.

Before leaving Stennis, each child is given a packet of information containing such items as a shuttle model cutout, mission sticker and activity sheet. LEAP concludes with a 30-minute bus tour of the center, including the Space Shuttle Main Engine test complex. While at Stennis, teachers may visit the Teacher Resource Center to collect educational materials geared toward the elementary level. Teachers may bring their second through fourth grade classes, by appointment, to the Visitors Center at Stennis on weekdays between September and May.

For additional information or to make reservations for LEAP, call the Stennis Space Center Visitors Center at (601) 688-2370 or 1-800-237-1821, or access the Visitors Center home page at <http://www.ssc.nasa.gov> (no quotes).

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